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AFTERNOON AND WEEKLY.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18.

CIRCULATION STATEMENT.

January—1908.

1.....3891 17.....3765

2.....3888 18.....3768

3.....3891 19.....3778

4.....3894 20.....3781

5.....3899 21.....3778

6.....3900 22.....3825

7.....3790 23.....3870

8.....3796 24.....3874

9.....3805 25.....3864

10.....3808 26.....3871

11.....3796 27.....3873

12.....3788 28.....3813

13.....3796 29.....3822

14.....3766 30.....3822

15.....3766 31.....3822

Total103,390

Average for January, 1908.....3829

Personally appeared before me, the

February 18, 1908, R. D. MacMillen,

business manager of The Sun, who

affirms that the above statement of

the circulation of The Sun for the

month of January, 1908, is true to

the best of his knowledge and belief.

My commission expires January

10th, 1912.

PETER PURYEAR,

Notary Public.

Daily Thought.

Talent develops itself in solitude;

Character in the stream of life.

—Goethe.

The trouble with Marion Gray, the

Chicago "affinity agent," was that she

wasn't marryin' at all.

Those Japs can outdo the origi-

nals. Minister Takahira can even in-

terview himself, and acknowledges

that he does it more satisfactorily

than a newspaper man could.

The La Center Advance again

makes its appearance, after a brief

suspension. If the succeeding issues

are as newsworthy as the first, the paper

should be supported by Ballard county

folks.

It will be interesting to note the

result of the special election in Mason

county to choose a successor to Rep-

resentative Virgil McKnight, and the

result may have a moral effect on the

senatorial contest. Mr. McKnight in-

sisted that his people were with him

in the fight against Beckham, while

Beckham's supporters maintained

that Mason county people were pro-

testing against his attitude. The elec-

tion probably will result in the choice

of a Republican to succeed him, as the

Democratic party is split over the sen-

atorial question, and McKnight car-

ried the county by a small majority.

That would bring W. O. Bradley's

election nearer, and might drive the

Democrats in the legislature closer

together.

Calro is contemplating the erection

of a \$50,000 city building.

TAFT AND HUGHES.

Walter Wellman, the famous Wash-

ington correspondent, figures that

Taft should win on the first ballot at

Chicago. He allows the secretary of

war 200 of the 266 southern delegates,

and says that while someone appar-

ently is furnishing funds to inspire

contests in some states, the national

committee will make short shrift of

these. In addition he places New

Jersey, Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio,

Michigan, Minnesota, North and South

Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri,

Oregon, Washington, Idaho and the

territories in the Taft column, with

New England in the convention un-

pledged, and ready to climb into the

best looking band wagon.

Not counting New England the

states mentioned should furnish

Taft 364 votes, which with the 200

from the south would give him 564

votes, of the total of 880.

There is little doubt of the accuracy

of these figures. Taft is certain to

get the great west and the south,

Ohio and Michigan are neighbors,

while the opposition has otherwise

hedged him in with favorite sons,

Indiana, Illinois and Pennsylvania

having candidates of their own. But

there is a popular movement on foot

in all these states to accord their fay-

orite sons the courtesy of home sup-

port, while their names are before the

convention, and then go to the sec-

retary of war on the break.

It was the hope of the opposition to

tie up the delegations so that they

could be delivered in bundles to the

strongest anti-administration candi-

date; but in the matter of presiden-

tial selection the popular will governs

largely. The United States is too big

for a shrewd politician to do much

more than hold on to the popular

movement and make the best of the

situation.

Taft and Hughes is still a pretty

good guess, with the declaration of

Governor Willson that he will not con-

sider the vice-presidency.

THE LEAP YEAR PERIL.

As the church bells, foghorns,

steamboat whistles, cannon crackers

and automobile sirens whooped the

new year in this morning the hearts

of 9,000,000 American bachelors be-

gan to flutter. Nineteen-eight is a

leap year, and while a leap year lags

its weary length along the shadowy

theoretical barriers of maidenly re-

serve are down. It is the open season

for match-making, parlor intrigue and

shanghaiing. Widows lurk in every

dark corner. Grass widows swoop

down upon the guileless in horrible

hordes. Even old maids powder their

noses and take the trail.

No wonder the average bachelor

dreamed terrifyingly of a la Newburg

dreams last night and awoke, this

morning with his heart at the mast-

head of his esophagus and cold beads

of clamminess upon his brow. It is

dinned into his ears that he will be an

extra hazardous risk, as the insurance

men say, until Dec. 31. His friends

warn him of his perils. He shies at

every skirt. A glance from a pair of

black eyes appalls him. By June 10-

000 bachelors in Baltimore alone will

be nervous wrecks.

All the same, there is no reason

why the true Dionysian should let

leap year shake his normal fortitude

and self-confidence. The terrors of

the most strenuous leap year imagin-

able, at their very worst, are terrors

that confront a man in the open. He

may observe them coming on, and he

may fight them to a finish like a man.

The grass widow who swoops down

is visible to the naked eye. She

makes a noise as she advances. It is

possible to evade her, to trick her, to

scare her away (though not often),

and even to skedaddle. She is in the

open field. The glare of the good,

red sun illuminates and exposes her

fell intention.

In years that are not leap years

the bachelor faces far more serious

odds. Instead of being tackled hon-

estly and obviously, he is approached

supernaturally and stealthily. Un-

able to nail him viva voce, as in leap

year, the crafty grass widow turns

upon him her batteries of deceit, al-

lurement and chicanery. She makes

him believe that he is doing the woo-

ing; that he is the aggressor. She

affects reluctance coyness, coquetry.

The result is that the bachelor is en-

meshed in a manner which is dis-

graceful to a man of his intelligence.

Before he quite knows what has

struck him he is chained to the altar

rail.—Baltimore Sun.

2-MINUTE SKETCHES

Stephen A. Douglas.

By ROBERTUS LOVE.

He was a giant

in intellect.

VERY early in his career Stephen

A. Douglas became known

throughout the country as "the

Little Giant." The sobriquet was

a fit one. Physically he was short and

slight—a little man. Mentally he was

big from his boyhood. His head was

large and correspondingly brainy. He

was a giant in intellect.

Douglas was daringly ambitious. His

goal was the presidency of the United

States. As a schoolboy in Vermont and

western New York the familiar para-

doxical fact that "any American boy

can become president" seems to have

taken possession of him. He settled in

a new state, Illinois, to grow up with

the country and work himself into lead-

ership. Though he failed of the pres-

idency, he was in the whitest heat of

the presidential imelight for years.

Perhaps no man in American history

rose to national eminence so rapidly

as did Douglas. He almost won a

nomination for congress at the age of

twenty-five. Only three years later

he was a member of the supreme

court of Illinois, resigning this office

at the age of thirty to enter congress

in the lower house Douglas became at

once a national figure. Entering the

senate a few years later, his fame

widened and deepened with each suc-

ceeding year. Douglas was a far more

prominent man in 1852 than was

Franklin Pierce, who defeated him for

the Democratic nomination for pres-

ident and was elected. Douglas was

still under forty. Four years later the

engrossing slavery problem had se-

parated his party that again he failed

to win the nomination. In 1860 he

was nominated by the northern sec-

tion of the Democracy.

It was his espousal of the doctrine

of "squatter sovereignty," which con-

tended that every territory should be

permitted to vote for itself on the

question of slavery, that cost Douglas

the presidency.

Douglas died at the early age of

forty-eight, a few months after the in-

auguration of his greatest opponent,

Abraham Lincoln. It is to his ever-